

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

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DRAFTED BY S/S-O:HECOLE

APPROVED BY S/S-O:DLMACK

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R 111830Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 006764

EXDIS MILITARY ADDRESSEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEHRAN 277 ACTION SECSTATE JAN 11.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 0277

EXDIS

PASS SECDEF, CJCS AND USCINCEUR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, IR

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF NEW CHIEF, ARMISH/MAAG

1. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY GENERAL VANDENBERG THAT HE IS BEING REASSIGNED AND HAVE PASSED THIS INFORMATION TO THE SHAH. WE HAVE NO WORD ON STATUS OF A REPLACEMENT. WISH TO RECALL TO ADDRESSEES THAT BEFORE ANY ANNOUNCEMENT IS MADE RE APPOINTMENT OF NEW CHIEF, ARMISH/MAAG, AMBASSADOR'S CONCURRENCE IN ASSIGNMENT OF THIS KEY MEMBER OF COUNTRY TEAM SHOULD BE OBTAINED. WHEN AMBASSADOR HAS APPROVED, HE WILL CONVEY NOMINATION TO SHAH FOR HIS AGREEMENT.

2. BECAUSE OF RECENT, EARLY CHANGES IN SENIOR U.S. MILITARY ADVISORS HERE, IT WILL BE ESSENTIAL THAT BEST MAN IS SELECTED FOR POSITION OF MAAG CHIEF. APART FROM OBVIOUS
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PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND BROAD FAMILIARITY WITH

WEAPONS SYSTEMS IN THREE SERVICES, NEW CHIEF SHOULD BE OFFICER WITH SUPERIOR TALENTS FOR ORGANIZATION AND STAFF WORK. FOR SEVERAL REASONS(RECENT ARRIVAL OF AIR FORCE SECTION CHIEF AND COMING DEPARTURE OF ARMY SECTION CHIEF,

PREPONDERANT NUMBER OF IIGF OFFICERS IN UNIFIED COMMAND POSITIONS AND NEED FOR DETACHED VIEWPOINT IN HANDLING POSSIBLE GOI INTEREST IN MAJOR AIR FORCE SYSTEMS), IF QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL IS AVAILABLE, WE WOULD PREFER U.S. ARMY, RATHER THAN AIR FORCE, MAJOR GENERAL. STRESS THAT OVERRIDING CONSIDERATION IS SELECTION OF MATURE, HIGHLY QUALIFIED OFFICER REGARDLESS OF COLOR OF HIS UNIFORM. HELMS UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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